

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 R

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APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE

AF/E:RSPOST

EUR/NE:JSHUMATE (SUBST)

-----250700Z 091744 /11

R 241418Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065380

BONN FOR PASSING TO FRG FONOFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UG, US

SUBJECT: UGANDAN BISHOP CALLS AT DEPARTMENT

1. RT. REV. FESTO KIVENGERE, ANGLICAN BISHOP OF KIGEZI, UGANDA, WHO WAS CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF LATE ARCHBISHOP LUWUM AND FLED UGANDA FOLLOWING LUWUM'S DEATH IN FEBRUARY, CALLED
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AT DEPARTMENT MARCH 22. APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY FESTO THROUGH U.S. CHURCH CONTACTS. HE WAS RECEIVED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY VANCE. MEETING LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF HOUR.

2. FESTO STATED HE WAS CONTACTING CHURCH COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS IN U.S. IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR UGANDAN

CHRISTIANS WHO HAD FLED COUNTRY IN WAKE OF RECENT EVENTS, PARTICULARLY STUDENTS WHO NEED FUNDS FOR CONTINUED STUDY. FESTO SAID HE PLANNED SHORTLY TO RETURN TO NAIROBI (VIA LONDON WHERE HIS FAMILY IS STAYING), FROM WHENCE CONTACT CAN BE MAINTAINED WITH UGANDA. (HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD DEPTOFF, HOWEVER, THAT HE MIGHT RETURN TO U.S. IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE.)

3. FESTO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN UGANDA, AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD DO SO AS WELL. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ASSURED HIM WE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS

CONDITIONS IN UGANDA, BUT STATED THAT AFRICAN VOICES WOULD HAVE MOST IMPACT ON UGANDAN GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY IF THEY REPRESENTED A BROAD AFRICAN SPECTRUM -- E.G. CATHOLIC AS WELL AS PROTESTANT, AND WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGERIA OR GHANA IN ADDITION TO UGANDA'S NEIGHBORS SUCH AS TANZANIA WHOSE VIEWS OF AMIN GOVERNMENT WELL KNOWN. FESTO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION ON UGANDAN EVENTS TO DATE HAD COME FROM SOMEWHAT LIMITED RANGE OF SOURCES. POSSIBILITY WAS MENTIONED OF UGANDAN ITEM BEING ENTERED ON AGENDA OF UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT MEETING. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT MAJORITY OF OAU MEMBERS WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO CONFRONT THIS ISSUE.

4. FESTO URGED THAT U.S. ENCOURAGE ARAB STATES WHICH ASSIST UGANDA, ESPECIALLY MODERATES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, TO RESTRAIN AMIN. FESTO ALSO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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OPENING OF U.S. EMBASSY IN KAMPALA WOULD HAVE POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION DUE TO WEIGHT OF U.S. PRESENCE ALONE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STATED THAT THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF RE-OPENING OF U.S. EMBASSY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. FESTO PRAISED U.S. FIRMNESS IN RESPONSE TO AMIN THREAT AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS CLEAR EFFORT BY AMIN TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM ANTI-CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES AT HOME. FESTO APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT U.S. RESPONSE HAD INVOLVED THREATENED USE OF MARINES; ASSISTANT SECRETARY CORRECTED THIS MISIMPRESSION.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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